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ED 003 914 48

MEANING DISCRIMINATION IN BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES.

BY- IANNUCCI, JAMES E.
INDIANA UNIV., BLOOMINGTON

REPORT NUMBER NDEA-VI-16-2 PUB DATE NOV 60
EDRS PRICE MF-$0.09 HC-$0.72 18P

DESCRIPTORS- *SEMANTICS, *DICTIONARIES, *LANGUAGE RESEARCH, *BILINGUALISM, LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SEMANTIC DISCRIMINATION OF POLYSEMOUS ENTRY WORDS IN BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES WAS DISCUSSED IN THE PAPER. HANDICAPS OF PRESENT BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES AND BARRIERS TO THEIR FULL UTILIZATION WERE ENUMERATED. THE AUTHOR CONCLUDED THAT (1) A BILINGUAL DICTIONARY SHOULD HAVE A DISCRIMINATION FOR EVERY TRANSLATION OF AN ENTRY WORD WHICH HAS SEVERAL MEANINGS AND (2) THE PROBLEM OF DISCRIMINATION WOULD BE SOLVED BY COORDINATING THE BILINGUAL DICTIONARY WITH A MONOLINGUAL DICTIONARY BY A SYSTEM OF NUMBER REFERENCES. THE REPORT IS ONE OF A SERIES OF 13 PAPERS PRESENTED AT A CONFERENCE ON LEXICOGRAPHY, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, NOVEMBER 11-12, 1960. (GD)

ED003914

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CONFERENCE ON LEXICOGRAPHY
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
November 11-12, 1960

# MEANING DISCRIMINATION IN BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

James E. Iannucci
Saint Joseph's College
Philadelphia, Pa.

Various kinds of semantic particularization, refinement or discrimination may be required and sometimes found in bilingual dictionaries. This paper deals with the kind of semantic discrimination most frequently sought and also most frequently found in bilingual dictionaries, namely, discrimination of the meanings of a polysemous entry word.[1] An examination of 32 bilingual dictionaries revealed a variety of procedures for dealing with this problem. The dictionaries examined are all bilingual dictionaries in which one language is English and the other is another Indo-European language. They include some of the largest dictionaries in each field.

Even in the best bilingual dictionaries we find many entries, sometimes very long ones, with no discrimination at all. This type of entry is illustrated in specimens 1 to 7. In specimen 2, for example, the French word tour is given 27 translations with nothing to indicate which meaning of tour each of the English words translates. A kind of negative discrimination is provided by punctuation: the commas separating synonyms or near synonyms and the semicolons separating words of more or less different meanings. The English-speaking user of an entry like this would probably find it adequate enough. He has found the word tour in a French context and wants to know what it means. As a native speaker of English, he is likely to know the meanings of the English words

and should therefore be able to find the appropriate meaning for his context. If he is translating into English, he should be able to choose the appropriate word or perhaps even to supply a word which is more appropriate than any of those listed in the entry. The French-speaking user, however, would refer to this entry in order to express himself in English. He has a particular meaning of tour in mind and wants to find the appropriate English word for that meaning. Since English is a foreign language to him, he is much less likely to know the meanings of the English words in the entry, and he therefore needs information on how these English words differ in meaning. If he is translating a French text into English, he still needs this information.

Bilingual dictionaries attempt to provide this information in various ways. Some dictionaries, particularly the older ones, give long formal definitions of the type found in monolingual dictionaries. This sort of treatment is illustrated in specimens 71 to 74. In specimen 72, for example, one of the translations of English spring is Spanish primavera, and this is accompanied by the definition, "estación del año en la cual comienzan las plantas á brotar y crecer." Such definitions are unnecessarily long for a bilingual dictionary and extremely wasteful of space. The same meaning of spring is discriminated much more briefly in specimen 70 by "estación del año." As a matter of fact, this could be cut down to simply "estacion" without any loss of information since all that is needed is enough information to distinguish one meaning of spring from any of its other meanings.

For the most part, such discriminations are kept fairly brief in most bilingual dictionaries. Sometimes they are in the form of

synonyms as, for example, in specimen 59. Here the German word nett is given 16 English translations with 11 German synonyms to discriminate the different meanings of the entry word. Often the discrimination is in the form of a context word or phrase. The subject or type of subject may discriminate the meaning of a verb as, for example, in specimen 32 where different French translations of the verb sway are given depending upon whether the swaying is done by a drunkard, by a tree or by a balance. The object or type of object may also discriminate the meaning of a verb as, for example, in specimen 42 where different Spanish translations of the verb sink are given depending upon whether the object is a well or a post. It is easy to fall into ambiguity here since in some cases the discriminating noun could be understood as a subject or as an object. In specimen 48, for example, the discriminating noun fish after the verb nibble is intended as a subject, but it could also be understood as an object. The meaning of an adjective is sometimes determined by the noun or type of noun to which it is applied as, for example, in specimen 41 where the adjective dull has different German translations depending upon whether the quality is applied to eyes, fire, colors, metals, the weather, etc. In specimen 11 subject labels serve to discriminate two meanings of the English band in music and in architecture. (See also specimens 8 to 13.) In specimen 15 the usage label colloquial might serve to discriminate one of the meanings of Spanish chispa. (See also specimens 14 to 17.) Sometimes meaning discrimination is effected by the designation of the part of speech of the entry word, and in verbs by the designations transitive or intransitive. (See specimens 18 to 21.) Illustrative

sentences or phrases are also used for meaning discrimination. We see this device illustrated in specimens 26 to 30. This device takes up a great deal of space, and it is not always used very effectively. In specimen 30, for example, it is difficult to see what purpose the illustrative sentence serves.

Important as it is to provide meaning discriminations which are brief and clear, the choice of the language in which these discriminations should be given is even more important. Many bilingual dictionaries give meaning discriminations in the target language in both sides of the dictionary. The Cuyas English & Spanish Dictionary uses this procedure. In the English-Spanish side meaning discriminations are in Spanish, and in the Spanish-English side they are in English. Other dictionaries give meaning discriminations in the source language in both sides. The Muret-Sanders English & German Dictionary follows this procedure. The discriminations are in English in the English-German side and in German in the German-English side. Still other dictionaries use the same language for meaning discrimination in both sides. This means that in one side the source language is used and in the other the target language. This is the procedure followed by the Raventos English & Spanish Dictionary in which discriminations are in English in both sides. Only one of the dictionaries examined here, Heath's French & English Dictionary, gives discriminations consistently in both languages in both sides of the dictionary. Specimens 52 and 75 are typical examples. These represent four consistent approaches to the problem: 1) target language in both sides, 2) source language in both sides, 3) the same language in both sides, 4) both languages in

both sides.[2] Not all dictionaries are so consistent. In some dictionaries we find now one language, now the other used for discriminating meanings in the same side of the dictionary.

Which of these procedures makes for the greatest efficiency in a bilingual dictionary? To answer this question we must determine what kind of use requires meaning discrimination. Any entry in a bilingual dictionary may serve two purposes. It may serve the target-language speaker for comprehension of a foreign-language text or for translating into his own language. This is the foreign-to-native use. The same entry may also serve the source-language speaker for expressing himself in the foreign language or for translating into the foreign language. This is the native-to-foreign use. In the discussion of specimen 2, the French entry tour, we noted that the French- speaking user required meaning discriminations while the English-speaking user did not, that is, the native-to-foreign use required discriminations while the foreign-to-native use did not. Since discriminations are required by the native-to-foreign use, they should be in the native language of the user, that is, in the source language. (Specimens 31 to 35 and 55 to 66 show discriminations in the source language. Specimins 36 to 39, 42 to 50 and 62 to 74 show discriminations in the target language.)

It also seems to be better lexicographical procedure to place the discrimination before the target word as in specimen 35 rather than after the target word as in specimen 41 since explanatory matter in dictionaries conventionally refers to what precedes, and these discriminations refer to different meanings of the target word.

The best way to handle meaning discrimination in any given dictionary should be determined by the kind of use each side of the dictionary is intended for. A bilingual dictionary can have four possible uses: native-to-foreign and foreign-to-native in each side. For example, if an English and French dictionary is designed to serve all four uses, it should have meaning discriminations in the source language in both sides, in English in the English-French side and in French in the French-English side. If it is intended for both native-to-foreign and foreign-to-native use, but only for English-speaking users, the native-to-foreign use would be removed from the French-English side making it unnecessary to include discriminations in this side. Various arrangements are possible, the determining factors being for whom the dictionary is intended and for what use or uses it is intended. In any case, the meaning discriminations would be in the source language. I can see no kind of use which could be served more efficiently by having the discriminations in the target language. In an entry like specimen 47, for example, in order to justify the use of discriminations in French (the target language) we must assume that they are intended for the French-speaking user in translating from English to French, and that he needs to be told which of the four French words is the appropriate one for any particular context. We must further assume that the English-speaking user, translating from English to French, does not need this information, or that if he needs it, it should be given to him in French.

In view of these considerations, it is surprising that so many bilingual dictionaries give meaning discriminations in the target

language in both sides. The English and Spanish field is particularly bad in this respect. Six large English and Spanish dictionaries of over 100,000 entries (Amador, Cassell, Cuyas, Neuman & Baretti, Velazquez and Williams) all have discriminations in the target language in both sides. Two of these are new dictionaries, published within the last five years, and most of the others have had recent revisions. The smaller Raventos and the MacDonald Commercial Dictionary have discriminations in English in both sides, that is, in the source language in the English-Spanish side and in the target language in the Spanish-English side.[3]

Ideally a bilingual dictionary designed for native-to-foreign use would have a discrimination for every translation of an entry word which has several meanings. Our present dictionaries fall far short of this ideal. Specimen 70 is typical, or perhaps even better than typical. In this entry the noun spring has 21 Spanish translations with only three discriminations, two in the form of subject labels and one in the form of an abbreviated definition. If one wants to say in Spanish: "This board has a spring in it," there is no way of finding the Spanish word for spring in this sense even though it is included in the entry. Or, if one wants to talk about the spring of an arch, there is no way of knowing that the Spanish translation for this sense of spring is not included in the entry. This incompleteness is no doubt dictated by considerations of economy of space. To provide a discrimination for every target word would increase the size of a dictionary considerably and would also make the longer entries more unwieldy.

This problem could perhaps be solved by coordinating the bilingual dictionary with a monolingual dictionary by a system of number references, thus making the definitions in the monolingual dictionary serve as meaning discriminations for the bilingual dictionary. This is illustrated in the examples following specimen 75. While such a system would make full discrimination available for the native-to-foreign use of the bilingual dictionary, it does present a number of practical problems. One would be bound by the semantic breakdown in the monolingual dictionary. The discrimination there may be too fine at some point and not fine enough at some other point. Where it is too fine, more than one number could be assigned to a given translation, but where it is not fine enough, one would have to discriminate further by conventional means. Also, senses that you want to include may be omitted in the monolingual dictionary, and senses that you don't want may be included. Editorial work would be complicated by the fact that one book could not be revised independently of the other. If two publishers are involved, the difficulty is increased. Last, but not least, is the objection to using two books for one purpose, or two parts of one book if they are bound together. Although these are difficult problems to solve, I think the gain in economy and efficiency would be well worth the trouble. Meanwhile, the efficiency of the present type of bilingual dictionary would be greatly increased by having meaning discriminations in the source language instead of in the target language.

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SPECIMEN ENTRIES FROM BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

(Heading for next page)

1) rubber...s. caucho; hule; fregador; goma de borrar; estropajo; paño de cocina; lima de mano; jugada que desempata; partida de juego; piedra de afilar... AMA

2) tour...n.m.Turn, round, twining, winding; revolution, circumference, circuit, compass; twist, strain; tour, trip; trick, dodge, wile; feat; office, service, vein, manner, style; place, order; lathe; turning-box; wheel; mould... BAK

3) pârli...v.a.to brown; to roast brown; to dupe, cheat; to steal; pilfer, draw away... AXE

4) balance, subst., Waage, Bilanz, f., Saldo Ruckstand; Transport, m.; Restbetrag, m.; Gleichgewicht...BIT

5) rough...a. áspero; tosco; fragoso, escabroso; erizado; peludo, encrespado; duro, bronco, desapacible; bruto; tosco, cerril; rudo, inculto; grosero, brusco; tempestuoso borrascoso, agitado; chapucero, mal acabado; approximativo, general; preliminar, preparativo. CUY

6) subtil...adj....Subtle, subtile, evasive; tenuous, fine; nice, refined; acute, subtle, keen, crafty, smart... OXF

7) fair...adj.justo, recto, honrado; imparcial; equitativo. regular, mediano; rubio, blondo; bello; despejado, claro... CHI

8) dowel s. (Ing.) espiga; bed dowel, (Alban.) roza de sujeción; peg-and-cup dowels,(Mold.) pasadores de unión. CHA

9) bay...s.Bahía; cala, rada, ensenada; (bot.) laurel; ladrido, aullido; acorralamiento; pajar; (arq.) intercolumnio; crujía; nave; compuerta de dique; caballo bayo... AMA

10) spore, s.(bot.) espora,f.;(zool.) germen, m. RAV

11) band...s.faja, fleje, venda, tira, lista, vencejo, cordón, correa, cinta, franja, precinta; abracadera, zuncho; lazo, enlace, unión, conexión, coyunda, cuadrilla, gavilla, partida, bandería; (mús.) banda, charanga, música; murga; (arq.) filete, listón. CUY

12) oxeye...n. (Bot.) Grande marguérite, f.; (Ornith.) mésangère, f....CAF

13) demoiselle...s. damisela; (orn.) antropoide, grulla de numidia; (ent.) caballito del diablo. WIL

14) ratón...n.m. Little rat; racoon;(fig.) little pet, darling. BAK

15) chispa, f.Spark, ember; sparkle; flake; very small diamond; ace, bit, small particle of anything; penetration, acumen, brightness; mother wit; fire; scale; (coll.) tipsiness, jag... AMA

16) sport...s. deporte; juego, diversión, entretenimiento, pasatiempo; deportista; caballero, hidalgo, persona campechana o noble; burla, broma; hazmerreír; (biol.) individuo anormal; monstruo; (fam.) tahur... CUY

17) gadoue...n.f.Night-soil, sewage used as manure; dirt, slush; (slang) trollop. CAF

18) in...prep.em, por, a,de,durante...a. interno ...adv. dentro, em casa... s. canto; partido político que está no poder... FER

19) after adv.depois, em seguida; conj. depois que; prep.depois, após; conforme; segundo... RIC

20) falsear, v.tr.To falsify, counterfeit, forge; distort, pervert; to pierce, to penetrate an armour; (carp.) to bevel...v.intr. To slack-(en); (mus.) to be false (a string) ...v.r. to warp. AMA

21) sport...v.i.jugar; recrearse, divertirse. v.t. llevar; ostentar, lucir... RAV

22) Wunderbaum (m.): locust-tree (Robinia pseudacacia); castor-oil plant (Ricinus communis). WEB

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23) palmarosa, f. palmarosa (Cymbopogon martini), ginger grass (Cymbopogon flexuosus). DEV

24) perce-pierre, f. parsley piert (Aphanes arvensis), saxifrage (Saxifraga). DEV

25) grosbeak...s. (orn.) pico duro (Pinicola enucleator); (orn.) degollado; (orn.) cardenal de Virginia. WIL

26) spring up, v.i. I (a) Sauter en l'air... 2. (a) (of plants, etc.) Pousser, croître. The wheat is beginning to s. up le blé commence à pousser; le blé sort de terre. As soon as the corn sprang up...des qu'on vit poindre le blé...(b) A breeze sprang up, une brise se leva. A belief has sprung up that..., la croyance s'est formée, a pris naissance, que... An intimacy sprang up between them, l'intimité s'établit entre eux. A doubt sprang up in his mind, un doute germa dans esprit. MAN

27) stamp, stampa f., impronta f., segno m., marchio m; stampo m., carattere m., maglio m., mazzuolo m.;punzone m., frantoio m. This law carried with it the divine—, questa legge portava la sanzione divina... HOA

28) spring...s. I (a) Source f. (d'eau) ...(b) Source, origine f. The custom had its s. in another country cet usage a eu son origine dans un autre pays, est originaire d'un autre pays ...2. Printemps m. The glory of an English s., la splendeur du printemps en Angleterre...A lovely s. evening, une belle soirée de printemps. Spring is in the air, on respire le printemps dans l'air... MAN

29) poste, s.m. I. Post, station. (a) Mil. La sentinelle était à son p., the sentry was at his post...MAS

30) exhibition...s. esposizione f., mostra f....Every one admired the wonderful Turin exhibition, tutti ammirarono la splendida esposizione di Torino... LYS

31) recede, zurücktreten; (prices) weichen, sinken, abschlagen... BIT

32) sway...v.i.(a) balancer; osciller; ballotter; (of drunkard) vaciller; (of trees) To s. in the wind, se balancer au vent...(c) (of balance, etc.) pencher; incliner... MAN

33) realize, verwicklichen; (a profit) aufbringen... BIT

34) nest...1.nest, nidus; (eines Eichhörnchens) dray; (eines Tieres) lie, lair; (eines Vogels am Boden) ground-nest... MUR

35) dim...a....(Of light) Faible, pâle; (of colour) effacé; (of sight) faible; (of memory) incertain, vague... MAS

36) éclater...2.v.i. (Of boiler, shell, gun) To burst, explode; (of mine) to blow up; (of tyre) to burst; (of glass) to fly (into pieces); (of mast) to split, splinter... MAN

37) jadish...adj. Rendido; (yegua) viciosa; (mujer) impúdica. AMA

38) sonner... I. v.i. To sound; (of clock) to strike; (of bell) to ring, to toll... MAS

39) rare...adj....5. (of plants) thin; 6. (Med.) (of the pulse) very slow ... SPI

40) rare...a. Rare; clairsemé; fameux; à moitié cru (of meat)... BAK

41) dull, I adj....matt (as eyes); schwach (as the fire);matt (as colors or metals); trübe (as weather); dumpf (of sounds);flau, still, stockened (as trade)... CAG

42) sink... va hundir, sumergir; echar a pique; abrir, cavar (un pozo); enterrar (un poste)... WIL

43) brocher... v.a. to stitch (a book); to figure (stuffs) to emboss (linen); to strike (a nail into a horse's foot)... CAF

44) dünn, adj. thin, fine; slender, slim; slight (silk); weak, diluted (fluids); scarce; rare (air)... CAG

45) prime... v. preparar, informar, instruir de antemano; cebar (un carburador, bomba o arma de fuego). CHI

46) bar... s. I. (a) Barre f.(de fer, de bois, de chocolat, etc.); barre, brique f.(de savon); lingot m. (d'or); lame f. (de commutateur, etc.)... MAN

47) return... v.tr. I. (a) Rendre (un livre emprunté); restituer (un objet volé); renvoyer (un cadeau); rembourser (un emprunt)... MAS

48) picar, v. t. to prick; sting;peck; chop fine; mince; nibble (fish); irritate (skin); (sew.) pink; burn (the tongue); eat (grapes); goad; spur; stipple (walls)... RAV

49) spread... v. tr.... (Ex)tender, desarrollar; de(spa)-rramar, esparcir, propalar, propagar; untar con; exhibir; poner (la mesa); apartar... AMA

50) gettare, to throw, cast (bronzes), waste... HOS

51 sprinkle. I. v.tr....(b) Asperger, arroser, bassiner (with water, d'eau); saupoudrer (with salt, de sel)... MAN

52) s'abattre, v.r., to fall, tumble down; to stoop; to abate...to break down (of horses—des chevaux); to burst (of a storm—d'un orage)...HEA

53) ouverture (d'un objectif) (n.f.), aperture (of a lens)
...
ouverture (d'une caverne) (n.f.), mouth (of a cave)..

ouverture (d'un pont, d'une voûte) (n.f.), span (of a bridge, of an arch)...

ouverture (d'un palmer) (n.f.), capacity (of a micrometer)... KET

54) ball, s....(of the thumb) yema (del pulgar), f.; (of the foot) planta (del pie)... RAV

55) lapse... s.I. (a) (Mistake) Erreur f., faute f....(b) Moral fault)chute f., faute, défaillance; faux pas... MAN

56) ball, s. globo, m.,esfera, f.; (plaything) pelota...; (shot) bala, f ....(dance) baile, m... RAV

57) fare, n., precio, precio de transporte; pasaje, viaje; (food) comida; (passenger) viajero; tarifa ... MAC

58) inkling...s. das unbestimmte Gerücht, Gemunkel; (hint) die Andeutung, der Wink; (slight foreknowledge) eine Ahnung, leise Idee... CAG

59) nett... 1. (zierlich) elegant, (sauber) neat, tidy, (hübsch) pretty, good-looking, (schmuck, geputzt) smart, trim, spruce, (niedlich) nice, delicate, (allerliebst) charming, (gemütlich) jolly, (freundlich) pleasant, (liebenswürdig) amiable, lovable, (gütig) kind... MUR

60) plain, I. adj. 1, =smooth, aequus, planus;...2, =manifest, clarus, planus, apertus, perspicuus, evidens, manifestus;... =unadorned, simplex, inornatus... CAL

61) sport (s): giuoco (m.)divertimento (m.), passatempo (m.);(plaything) giuocattolo (m.);(jesting) burla (f.) ...(exercise) esercizio... SPN

62) overwrought, adj. or part. nimis elaboratus ( =wrought too highly), laboribus confectus ( =worn down by labours)... CAL

63) rag...n. Chiffon (piece of cloth torn off); haillon, m.,guenille, loque (tatter), f.... BAK

64) spread, I. v. tr. (ex)pandere ( =to lay open), explicare (= to unfold), extendere (= to stretch out), sternere (= to lay out or flat), spargere (= to scatter)... CAL

65) fedele (m.) true believer (vero credente), trusty follower (seguace meritevole di fiducia), loyal subject ( (suddito leale)... SPN

66) perduto...lost; not visible, invisible (non visible); sunk (affondato); destroyed (distrutto); wasted, squandered (sciupato); not gained (non guadagnato); ruined (rovinato) ... LYS

67) heat...s. calor; ardor; vehemencia; celo (ardor sexual de la hembra); calefacción (para las habitaciones); corrida, carrera (de prueba)...CHI

68) rapport...n. m. 1....bearing yielding produce); ...3...produce (that which a th. yields);...7. ...report (official statement of facts)... SPI

69) ginebra,f.gin (drink); confusion; babble, din. RAV

70) spring...s. (mec.) muelle, resorte; (carr.) ballesta; elasticidad, fuerza elástica; blandura o suavidad elástica; salto, brinco, corcovo, bote; vuelta a su posición anterior; motivo, movíl; primavera (estación del año); fuente, f., manantial; origen, nacimiento; surtidor; alabeo, combadura. CUY

71) hoja, sf. 1. Leaf, the green deciduous part of trees, plants and flowers. 2. Leaf, anything foliated or thinly beaten; scales of metal. 3. Leaf, one side of a double door, shutter, etc... NEU

72) spring, s. 1. Resorte, elasticidad, fuerza elástica; muelle, resorte; cualquier cuerpo elástico que vuelve á su forma normal cuando cesa de estar comprimido...4. Primavera, estación del año en la cual comienzan las plantas á brotar y crecer.... VEL

73) diversion, s. 1. Desvío, el acto de desviar alguna cosa ó quitarle la dirección que llevaba. 2. Diversión, entretenimiento, pasatiempo. 3. (Mil.) Diversión, el ataque que se hace al enemigo por diversas partes para obligarle a separar sus fuerzas. NEU

74) book...s.1. livre m.:a)assemblage de feuilles de papier écrites ou imprimées ensemble; b) ouvrage d'esprit d'assez grande étendue pour former un volume; c) division d'un ouvrage d'esprit, chant d'un poème. CLI

75) nice...adj.,...(delightful—charmant) joli; (delicate—délicat) délicat, fin; (exact—correct)exact, juste; (scrupulous—scrupuleux) (fastidious—difficile)difficile, sévère, rigide, prude; (refined—raffiné) recherché, subtil... HEA

country... n.... 1, a tract of land; a district; a region; 2, rural parts, as opposed to cities or towns; usually with the; 3, one's native land; the land of one's citizenship; 4, the territory of a nation that has a distinct existence as to name, language, customs, government, and the like; also the people of such a nation; 5, the people of a region or nation as a whole; the public; as, the country is opposed to war... WIN

English-French:
country n 1 region, contrée 2 campagne 3 patrie 4,5 pays, nation

English-German:
country n 1 Gegend 2 Land 3 Heimat, Vaterland 4 Land, Nation 5 Volk,Nation

English-Italian:
country n 1 regione, contrada 2 campagna 3 madrepatria, patria 4,5 paese, nazione

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dull...adj....1. Stupid; doltish. 2. Slow in perception or sensibility; hence, unfeeling, insensible; as the dull clods. 3. Slow in action or motion; hence listless; inert. 4. Without zest; depressed. 5. Not keen or sharp; blunt. 6. a. Lacking brillance of light; dim; as a dull fire. b. Lacking luster; as, a dull mirror. c. Of low saturation and low brillance; as a dull green. d. Not clear and ringing; —of sound. 7. Tedious; melancholy; as, a dull story. 8. cloudy; overcast; as, a dull day. 9. Sluggish;— of trade. WNC

English-Spanish:
dull adj 1 tonto, bobalicón 2 insensible, torpe 3 flojo, perezoso 4 desanimado, desalentado 5 romo 6 a poco claro b deslustrado c apagado d sordo 7 aburrido, tedioso 8 nublado, encapotado 9 inactivo, muerto

English-Italian:
dull adj 1 stupido, balordo 2 insensibile, scipito 3 lento, inerte 4 abbattuto 5 smussato 6 a oscuro, scialbo b appannato c oscuro d sordo 7 noioso 8 nuvoloso 9 calmo, morto

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rather... adv....1. (Obs. or British Dial.), more quickly; sooner; hence, 2. more willingly; preferably: as, he would rather go than stay. 3. with more justice, logic, reason, etc.: as, I, rather than you, should take the risk. 4. more accurately; more precisely: as, it was in the morning, or rather, the early afternoon. 5. on the contrary; quite conversely: as, we have not lost; rather, we have won. 6. somewhat; to some degree: as, I rather enjoy singing. 7. (Chiefly British Colloq.), certainly; assuredly: used as an answer. WNW

English-Italian:
rather adv 1 più presto, più subito 2 piuttosto 3 piuttosto, anzi 4 per meglio dire 5 al contrario 6 abbastanza, un po 7 s'intende!

English-German:
rather adv 1 schneller, früher 2 lieber, eher 3 vielmehr, eher 4 besser gesagt, vielmehr 5 im Gegenteil, eigentlich 6 etwas, einigermassen 7 gewiss!

## LIST OF DICTIONARIES WITH ABBREVIATIONS

ACD The American College Dictionary. New York: Random House, 1955.

AMA Martínez Amador, E. M. Shorter Spanish-English & English-Spanish Dictionary. Boston: D.C. Heath &Co., 1953.

AXE Axelrad, P. Complete Roumanian-English Dictionary. Philadelphia: David McKay Co., 1942.

BAK Baker, Ernest A. Heath's New French & English Dictionary. Boston: D.C. Heath & Co., 1932.

BIT Bithell, J. German-English & English-German Dictionary. 4th ed. London: Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 1954.

CAF Baker, Ernest A. Cassell's French-English & English-French Dictionary. 5th ed. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1951.

CAG Breul, Karl. Cassell's New German & English Dictionary. Rev. ed. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1939.

CAL Cassell's Latin-English & English-Latin Dictionary. Rev. ed. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1955.

CAS Cassell's Spanish Dictionary, ed. by Peers, Barragan, Vinyals & Mora, New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1959

CHA Chambers Diccionario Tecnologico Espanol-Ingles: Ingles-Espanol. Barcelona: Ediciones Omega, S.A., 1952.

CHI Castillo, C. & Bond, O.F. The University of Chicago Spanish Dictionary. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1949.

CLI Clifton, E. & Grimaux, A. A New French & English Dictionary. Paris: Garnier Freres, 1923.

CUY Cuyás, Arturo. Appleton's Revised English-Spanish & Spanish-English Dictionary. 4th ed. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1953.

DEV DeVries, Louis. French-English Science Dictionary. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1951.

FER Ferreira, P. Julio Albino. Diccionario Inglez-Portuguez. Porto: Ediçáo do Autor, 1939.

HEA De Lolme, Wallace & Bridgeman. Heath's French & English Dictionary. Boston: D.C. Heath & Co., n.d.

HOA Hoare, Alfred. An Italian Dictionary. 2nd ed. London: Cambridge University Press, 1925.

HOS Hoare, Alfred. A Short Italian Dictionary. London: Cambridge University Press, 1947.

KET Kettridge, J. O. French-English & English-French Dictionary of Technical Terms & Phrases. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd., 1949.

LYS Lysle & Gualtieri. Nuovo Dizionario Moderno delle Lingue Italiana e Inglese. Torino: F. Casanova & C., 1957.

MAC MacDonald, G. R. Spanish-English & English-Spanish Commercial Dictionary. London: Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 1946.

MAN Mansion, J.E. Heath's Standard French & English Dictionary. 2nd ed. Boston: D.C. Heath & Co., 1939.

MUR Muret-Sanders Encyclopaedic English-German & German-English Dictionary. 5th ed. Berlin: Langenscheidtsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, n.d.

MAS Mansion, J.E. Mansion's Shorter French & English Dictionary. Boston: D.C. Heath & Co., 1940.

NEU Neuman & Baretti. A Dictionary of the Spanish & English Languages. Rev. ed. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co., n.d.

OXF Chevalley, H. & Chevalley, M. The Concise Oxford French Dictionary. London: Oxford University Press, 1935.

RAV Raventós, M. H. McKay's Modern Spanish-English & English-Spanish Dictionary. New York: David McKay Co., Inc., n.d.

RIC Richardson, E. L., Sá Pereira, M. de L. & Sá Pereira, M. Modern Portuguese-English & English-Portuguese Dictionary. London: G. G. Harrap & Co., Ltd., 1944.

SPI Spiers & Surenne's French & English Pronouncing Dictionary. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1889.

SPN Spinelli, Nicola. Dizionario Scolastico Italiano-Inglese: Inglese-Italiano. Torino: Società Editrice Internazionale, 1937.

VEL Velázquez de la Cadena, M. A New Pronouncing Dictionary of the Spanish & English Languages. Chicago: Wilcox & Follett Co., 1953.

VOX Vox, Diccionario General Ilustrado de la Lengua Española. Barcelona: Publicaciones 6 Ediciones Spes, S.A., 1953.

WEB Webel, A. A German-English Dictionary of Technical, Scientific & General Terms. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd., 1952.

WIL Williams, Edwin B. Spanish & English Dictionary. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1955.

WIN The Winston Dictionary. College ed. Philadelphia: John C. Winston Co., 1946.

WNC Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. 6th ed. Springfield Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Co., 1953.

WNW Webster's New World Dictionary. College ed. Cleveland & New York: The World Publishing Co., 1953.

NOTES

1/For other discussions of this problem see the following: James E. Iannucci, "Meaning Discrimination in Bilingual Dictionaries: A New Lexicographical Technique, "Modern Language Journal, XLI (1957), 272-281. Otto Hietsch, "Meaning Discrimination in Modern Lexicography, "Modern Language Journal, XLII (1958), 232-234. Edwin B. Williams, "The Problems of Bilingual Lexicography Particularly as Applied to Spanish and English," Hispanic Review, XXVII (1959), 246-253. Edwin B. Williams, "Analysis of the Problem of Meaning Discrimination in Spanish and English Bilingual Lexicography," to appear in a forthcoming number of Babel: Revue Internationale de la Traduction.

2/Recourse to a third language is seen in the occasional use in bilingual dictionaries of Latin scientific names for flora and fauna. See specimens 22 to 25.

3/In general meaning discrimination seems to be handled much more effectively in dictionaries designed exclusively for the speakers of one of the languages. In Latin and English dictionaries, for example, discriminations for the entry word are given in English in the English-Latin side while the Latin-English side contains little or no discrimination.